465 sharp rise, especially in those groups which formerly occupied the lowest-paid positions. During the period 1914-39 the wages of male agricultural workers increased over 17 times; by 1942, 43 times; and those of female agricultural workers, 38 times. The increase for loggers was by 1950 over 15 times, for industrial workers 12 times for men, and 14 times for women. The basic salaries for civil servants, on the other hand, had increased only about nine times over the pre-war level, only very slightly more than the rise in the cost of living, so that after the war the workers received a greater share of the national income than they had before.

465 656 Up to 1942 the wage scale was a question to be settled between the employer and the employed, but that year a government order was passed by which the government undertook to regulate

465 wages. After the war, together with the rise in
651 living expenses, repeated demands for higher wages, accompanied by work stoppages, were made by the trade unions. In 1945 the government issued a decree according to which wages were to be raised commensurate with the cost of living, and this started a competition between prices and wages which has greatly promoted the general inflation and has now become one of the major financial problems in modern Finland.

465 Together with this trend for higher wages, there has been a demand for reduction of the margin between the wages paid to skilled and to seasonal workers. The combined influences of labor and the post-war scarcity of food and other essentials caused wages to rise beyond the level
511 established by Wage Regulation orders. If the
465 cost of living index is supposed to have been